

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1 and 4, 5, 7-9 and 11-14 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 3 were canceled previously. Claims 6 and 10 have been canceled with this amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 6. Claim 4 has been amended into independent form. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 10. Claim 7 has been amended to dependent from claim 1. Clarifying amendments to claims 13 and 14 have been entered to ensure internal consistency.

The applicants and the assignee are pleased to note that claims 13 and 14 have been allowed.

The applicants and the assignee also are pleased to note that claims 4, 6-8 and 10-12 were identified as being directed to patentable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 6. Hence, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 7 and 8 depend from allowable claim 1, and hence should be in condition for allowance.

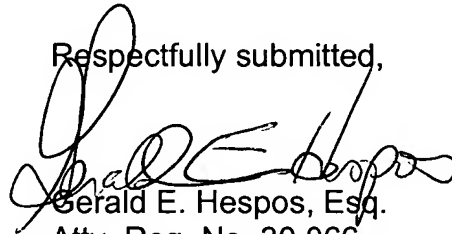
Allowable claim 4 has been amended into independent form, and hence is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 10. Hence, claim 9 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9, and should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited.

The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

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